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editor may take in choosing his material. The editor's introductions to the different chapters are excellent.

Business Statistics is a pioneer in a rapidly developing field. With all its shortcomings, it is a timely volume in view of the present movement for efficiency emphasized by the war. To call attention to the field of business statistics, to present its main outlines, and to state many of its essential problems are indeed long steps forward. The requirements of administration of large business units and the increasing growth of public direction and control make business statistics more and more a necessity. One wonders whether the development of the science can meet the increasing practical demands on it in view of the industrial development that will surely take place after the coming of peace.

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An Introduction to Statistical Methods. By HORACE SECRIST, PH.D.
New York: Macmillan, 1917. Pp. xxii+482.

Professor Secrist's book represents a determined, and on the whole a successful, effort to present in a clear and practical manner the essentials of statistical method, as opposed to its refinements. While many features of the book present what must appear to the scientific student as crudities and lacunae, it gives to those who make and use statistics in social and business problems the most that they really need, and in readily comprehensible form. The strong point of the treatment is its concrete and practical character, especially its handling of actual procedure and emphasis on the nature of sources of information, and its selection and clear presentation of fundamentals. There is little doubt that subtleties of method, especially the greater portion of the mathematical manipulation through which crude social data are often forced, are not only useless and repellent to the average mind but misleading and pernicious as well. Professor Secrist's presentation is well calculated to implant in the reader's mind a common-sense view of the subject, a critical attitude toward data, and a wholesome appreciation of the limitations of ostensibly precise statements in figures.

The plan of the work includes three introductory chapters on the meaning and application of statistics, sources and collection of data, and units of measurement. Then follows an illustrative chapter describing a model wage investigation, then three chapters on presentation, tabular, diagrammatic and graphical, a chapter on averages, two on index num-

bers and one each on dispersion and skewness, and correlation. Minor criticisms would be, first, occasional serious lack of clearness in the style, with unnecessary use of technical words and phrases. The almost complete elimination of symbols and formulae probably makes for harder rather than easier reading in fact. The unfamiliarity with and prejudice against symbolic notation on the part of large classes of readers must be taken into account, but should not be humored too far. The introductory discussion seems to be needlessly full on some points, yet on the whole to presuppose considerable familiarity with the actual use of statistics. There is a brief list of secondary (American) sources of statistical data (pp. 16-19) and a full description of American index numbers (chapter x), but one misses an objective account of the work of statistical agencies, and material relating to the problems they are supposed to solve or illuminate.

The usefulness of the work as a college textbook would be greatly increased by the addition of material for problems and exercises.

A deeper question, but one about which opinions naturally differ, is that of classification and arrangement of material. The basis chosen, as will be noted, is largely that of methods of presentation of results. It may be asked whether the character of the material itself or the problems to which it relates would not be more fundamental bases of classification. Adequate account is perhaps scarcely taken of the basic principle that description is for the purpose of understanding and ultimately for the purpose of control; in consequence, the guiding consideration throughout should be the discovery and exhibition of causal relations. In this connection more might be said on the selection of the facts to be gathered and presented and the analysis of data for bringing out the information they potentially contain.

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Use of Factory Statistics in the Investigation of Industrial Fatigue. A Manual for Field Research. By PHILIP SARGANT FLORENCE, M.A., PH.D. (Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law, Vol. XXXI, No. 3.) New York: Columbia University, 1918. Pp. 153.

As the sub-title, "A Manual for Field Research," indicates, this monograph deals with methods rather than results. References to actual investigations (by the author and others) contain considerable up-to-date information, but this is illustrative merely and no effort is put forth to make it systematic or to